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Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know who is responsible for the waste of Rs. 60,000 over a work which was found to be infructuous? It is said that the work done to the value of about Rs. 60,000 was infructuous owing to heavy springs and lightness of the soil of the bed. Why did not the Chief Engineer consider this before wasting Rs. 60,000?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I do not think it could be known to anybody that these springs existed to the extent to which they did or that their effect would be so great as to affect the work that was done."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask what the reference to the spring is? It is apparent that the Chief Engineer adopted the particular method of carrying out the work, apparently by pumping out water. Is it not possible to dredge the canal?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"As earth is removed, mud comes up from underneath."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"To get over the difficulty of springs, the question is whether it could not be dredged."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I will ask for a report on the suggestion."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"My question is, have all these been not examined before launching on the scheme?"

Land Revenue Administration

Failure to pass the equitation test a bar to promotion as Deputy Collector.

* 412 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any Sub-Magistrates or Tahsildars have been debarred from promotion to the rank of Deputy Collectors on the mere ground that they have failed to pass the horse-riding test;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that most of the Deputy Collectors never maintain or use a horse after they pass the riding test; and

(*c*) whether the Government have at any time been asked to consider the question of abolishing the equitation test as a compulsory test for Deputy Collectors?

A.—(*a*) No person is eligible for selection for admission to the Madras Civil Service (Executive Branch) by promotion from the Madras Revenue Subordinate Service unless among other qualifications he has passed the Equitation Test.

(*b*) The Government are not aware that the fact is as suggested.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative.

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar:—"If any representation has been received, will the Government consider it now?"

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The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" No, Sir; we consider it necessary for these officers to pass the equitation test."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" In these days of speedy motors, is horse riding necessary ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Yes."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" Are Deputy Collectors using animals at present?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I hope so, Sir."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGAM CHETTIYAR :—" Have Government called for information on this matter? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I have not called for information."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—" What is the necessity for this test in these days of rapid motors?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" These officers should visit places which cannot be reached by motor cars or motor cycles."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask if a horse is not a necessity?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Yes, though the necessity varies in different districts."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Is it a fact that nobody maintains a horse? What is to become of the test then?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" Some time or other they may have to use the horse."

B. POCKER SAHIB Bahadur :—" Is horse-riding a test for appointment as members of the Executive Council ? " (Laughter.)

Muslims as Tahsildars.

* 413 *Q.*—Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there are Muslim Tahsildars now working in the districts of Kurnool, Guntur, Kistna, West Godavari, Vizagapatam and Ganjam, and if so, for how many years; and

(*b*) whether there are any qualified Muslims available in the abovesaid districts for employment as Tahsildars?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information other than that contained in the Revenue Establishment Lists corrected up to 1st April 1931 which are available in the Legislative Council Library.

(*b*) The Government have not the information.

Mr. MAHBOOB ALI BAIG :—" Is the Government satisfied that Muslims are adequately represented in these districts?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—" I have not examined the question."